

# **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

## **Division of Plant Industry**

### **INVASIVE SPECIES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Division of Plant Industry (DPI) is the state agency responsible for detecting, intercepting, identifying, and controlling organisms, which directly or indirectly threaten Florida's agricultural, horticultural, and native plant resources.

In Florida, Chapter 581, F.S. and Rule Chapter 5B-57, F.A.C., specifically provide for the regulation of plant pests, arthropods, noxious weeds, genetically engineered plants or plant pest organisms, and biological control agents.

- Historically, agriculture has been viewed as the primary beneficiary of the plant regulatory system; however, the economic benefits of protecting plant resources accrue broadly.
- Freedom from invasive plant pests minimizes agriculture production costs while enhancing product quality and marketability, they also ensure a healthy environment and an extensive natural resource base.

Introduced invasive plant pests result in an estimated \$41 billion annually in lost production and in prevention and control expenses (GAO Report, 1997). These are costs paid either directly or indirectly by the American taxpayer.

# State of Florida

## Five Year Impact by Foreign Plant / Animal Pests / Diseases

Plant/Animal Pest/Disease	State Costs For Control/ Eradication	USDA/Federal Costs for Control/ Eradication	University of Florida Costs for Research	Industry Costs for Control	Five-Year Industry Sales Loss	Annual Potential Sales Loss with Statewide Spread
Citrus Canker	\$ 94,015,379	\$ 100,388,377	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,000,000		
Medfly	\$ 22,468,344	\$ 22,500,000				
Citrus					\$ 775,000,000	\$ 375-750 million
Tomatoes					\$ 2,500,000	\$ 108-216 million
Other Crops				\$ 4,000,000	\$ 6,250,000 *	\$ 110-200 million
Thrips palmi** Bell peppers			\$ 2,400,000	\$ 20,000,000		\$ 3.5 million
Brown Citrus Aphid**	\$ 220,468		\$ 1,700,000	\$ 30,000,000		\$ 5.2 million
Citrus Leafminer**			\$ 600,000	\$ 32,000,000		\$ 5.5 million
Oriental Fruit Fly	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000		***		
Sweet Potato Whitefly**			\$ 3,000,000	\$ 17-22 million		
Pine Shoot Beetle	\$ 10,076			***	\$ 55,000,000	
Leatherleaf Fern Anthracnose**	\$ 775,000		\$ 700,000	\$ 33,000,000	\$ 56,250,000	\$ 15-20 million
Equine Piroplasmiasis	\$ 40,000					\$ 120 million
Heartwater Disease	\$ 1,115,200		\$ 5,300,214			\$ 195 million
Tropical Soda Apple**	\$ 1,166,440		\$ 2,200,000	***		
Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl			\$ 275,000	\$ 750,000		
TOTALS	\$ 119,985,907	\$ 123,063,377	\$ 20,175,214	\$ 139,000,000 to 144,000,000	\$ 895,000,000	\$ 937 million to 1.186 billion
Five-Year Total Costs for Eradication, Control, Research		\$407,224,498				

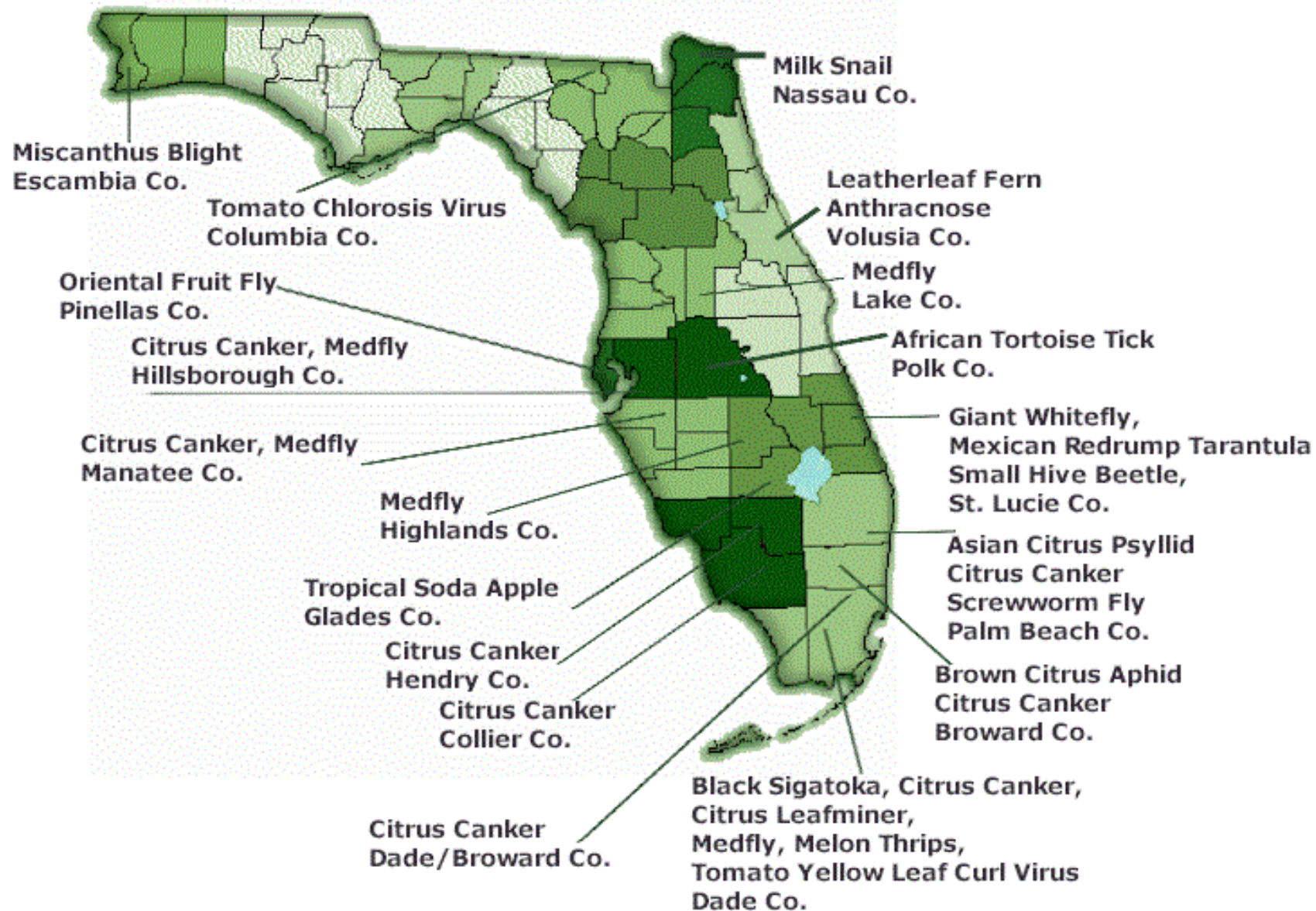
\* Sales Loss and Cost of Control

\*\* No Eradication Possible After Introduction

\*\*\* To be inserted later

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Florida Citrus Commission; Florida Tomato Exchange; Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association; University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences 12/02/2000

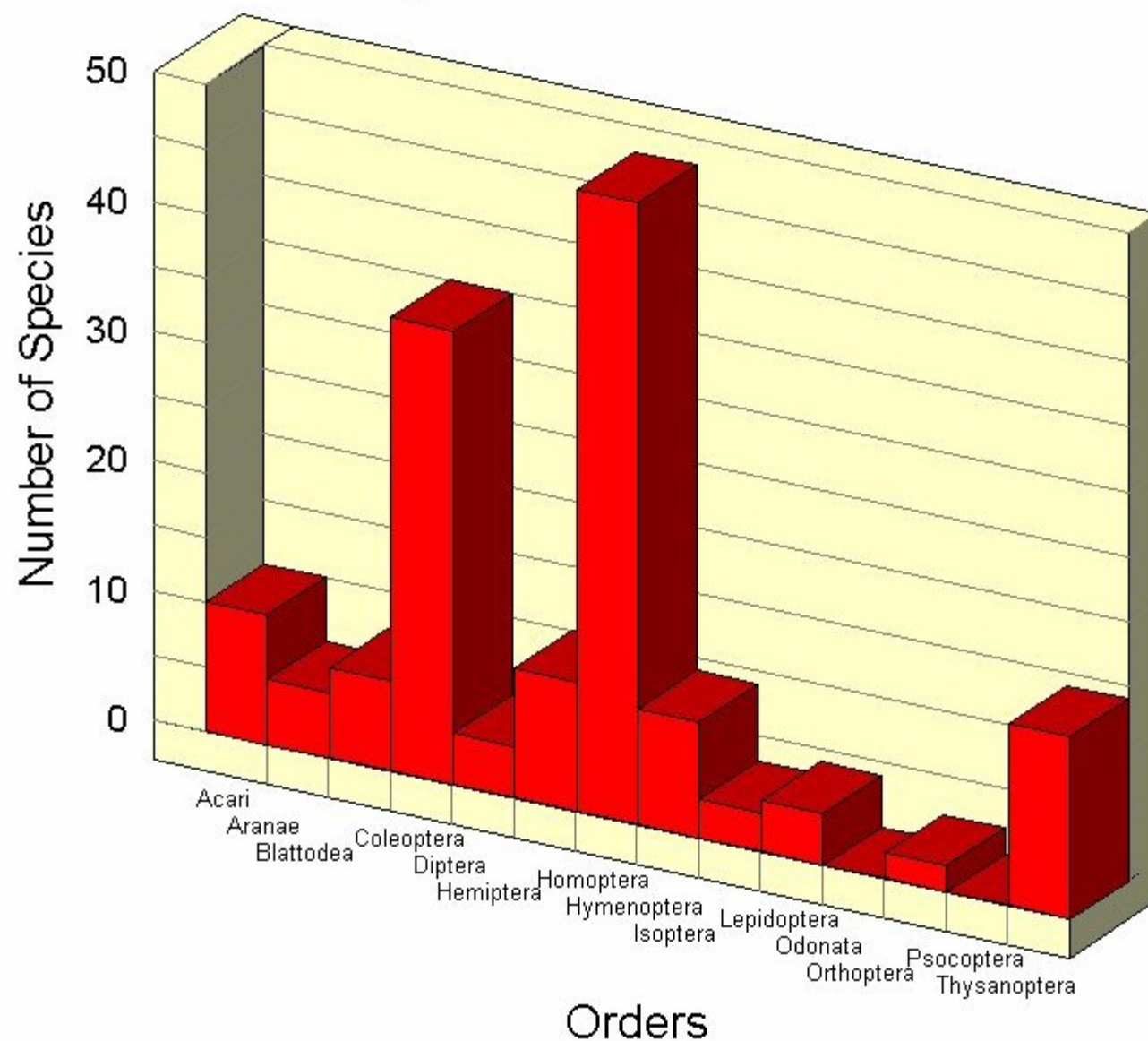
## Significant Pests Found in Florida, 1995-2000





# The Exotic Invasion of Florida

Immigrant Taxa 1986-2000





A critical need exists for a comprehensive invasive plant pest detection system in the United States. An effective State and Federal partnership is needed to establish pest detection priorities and clearly define action plans for coordination of pest detection activities at the state, regional, and national levels. This need is underscored by concerns surrounding the entry and establishment of invasive plant pests.

# Current impediments to developing a sound invasive species management plan

- Base level funding is not adequate to respond to the increasing number of pest incursions occurring throughout the state.
- There is presently no standardized formula in place to identify the funding responsibilities or partnerships between agencies with respect to invasive species activities and their resulting financial obligations.

- There presently is no mechanism in place for identifying and determining the roll of stakeholders or primary beneficiaries.
- Currently, the authority for regulating several of the state's noxious weeds is divided between DACS and DEP with no clearly defined enforcement authority assigned to either agency. This situation has resulted in the cumbersome and ineffective enforcement of both agencies' regulations.

- A coordinated plan should be developed and implemented to integrate Florida efforts with the various databases on invasive species not known to occur in the U.S. with those of other organizations, both nationally and internationally.

- A proactive public out-reach plan should be developed and coordinated between all agencies involved with the control and elimination of introduced invasive species to inform and educate the public, and to solicit their support.

The Division of Plant Industry can provide taxonomic support to other agencies in the areas of insect, disease and plant identification.

The Division may also assist with survey and detection activities.